

# **MEET THE SPEAKERS**

## **2010 Central Indiana Severe Weather Symposium**

### **Daniel McCarthy**

Daniel McCarthy is the Meteorologist in Charge at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Indianapolis, IN. Dan arrived at the Weather Forecast Office in Indianapolis in September of 2007 after 20 years with the National Severe Storms Forecast Center/National Storm Prediction Center (SPC). He served as the first Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the Storm Prediction Center, being the liaison between the center and the users of SPC products and services.

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Daniel holds a Bachelor of Science Degree and Master's of Science Degree in Meteorology from St. Louis University. He has worked in Broadcast Meteorology first for Great Lakes Weather, Inc. and WSAW-TV in Wausau, WI, and for WeatherData, Inc. and the KSN Network in Wichita, KS. He also has worked for the Industrial Commission in the Division of Safety and Hygiene and Administrative Services for the State of Ohio.

Daniel has done extensive studies on tornadoes and tornado outbreaks by calculating annual tornado and severe storm statistics for the country. He has written numerous papers on tornado climatology, tornado damage and the EF-Scale, and tornado, hail, and thunderstorm damaging wind trends across the United States. He has also done case studies that include bow echoes across Kansas and New York State, extensive research on the tornadoes and tornado forecasting of the Super Outbreak of April 3-4, 1974, the Palm Sunday Outbreak of April 11-12, 1965 and the northeast Ohio/northwest Pennsylvania tornado outbreak of May 31, 1985 by studying how today's computer models would forecast these events and finding typical patterns that produce these type of events across the Ohio Valley.

Daniel has done numerous interviews on tornadoes and severe storms on local television stations across the country as well as NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, The Learning Channel, The Discovery Channel, The History Channel and The Weather Channel. Daniel has also briefed Congressional members and staffers, FEMA officials and the President of the United States on tornado outbreaks and hurricanes that have threatened parts of the United States.

### **David Bice**

David Bice began his career in Emergency Management in March 2001 as the Hamilton County EMA Deputy Director. He was promoted to Director of Operations in March 2005 and was appointed Executive Director by the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners in May 2008. David is certified by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) as a Professional Emergency Manager (PEM), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Instructor, and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). He also holds Indiana firefighter certifications in 24 Hour Mandatory, Basic Firefighter, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firemedic II, and HAZMAT Operations. He is certified by the US Department of Homeland Security as an Instructor for National Weapons of Mass Destruction Standardized Awareness Training, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He is a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers, the National Emergency Management Association, and the Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana. He is an FCC licensed amateur radio operator with the call sign KC9AMV. David was a Combat Medical Specialist in the United States Army from 1987-1996. He served with the 1st Infantry Division in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield and on the front lines in Kuwait and Iraq during Operation Desert Storm.

### **Jeff Hendricks**

Jeff Hendricks began his career in Public Safety Dispatching at age 13 dispatching for the Cicero Volunteer Fire Department, in Cicero, Indiana. At age 18 Jeff began dispatching part-time with the Noblesville Police and Fire Departments. In May 1992 Jeff transferred to full-time. In January 1994 the City of Noblesville created the Noblesville Communications Department, a stand alone department within the city, and Jeff was promoted as their first Director. Jeff continued as Communications Director until 2008 when he transferred to the position of Communications Specialist responsible for all the radio and Public Safety Technology Issues for the City. Jeff was also the 2003-2004 Indiana NENA President, and earned his Emergency Number Professional (ENP) Certification in 2005. Jeff is also a member of the Hamilton County RACES and has obtained his General Class Amateur License. Jeff, KB9MHW, can often be heard working as Hamilton County liaison with the Central Indiana Skywarn Program.

### **Dave Tucek**

Dave has been Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Indianapolis office since 1994. During this time, over 10,000 Hoosiers have participated in the Indianapolis SkyWarn spotter training. Prior to Indianapolis, Tucek was a Journey Forecaster at NWS Louisville from 1989 - 1994, overseeing the NOAA radio, Doppler Radar and Short Term Forecast Programs. Tucek served as an intern at NWS South Bend from 1986-1989 and began his NWS career in Chicago's Public Service Unit in 1985, providing forecasts to local newspapers and issuing marine forecasts.

Dave began his meteorology career as an instructor at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois in 1981. Dave wrote lesson plans for and taught classes in radar, satellite, and tropical meteorology, and numerical weather prediction. Dave is a Chicago area native, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and a Master's Degree in Atmospheric Science at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

### **Chuck Lofton**

Since *Eyewitness News Sunrise* debuted in 1985, central Indiana viewers have counted on Chuck Lofton's SkyTrak weather forecast every weekday morning. Known for his upbeat and friendly style, Chuck keeps viewers informed with up-to-the-minute SkyTrak weather on Sunrise from 4:30am to 7am and throughout the morning on NBC's Today Show. Chuck's weather reports can also be heard on "Jim Denney and Friends" on 95.5 WFMS-FM, Warm 93.9 FM and on the Morning Show on WLBC in Muncie.

In 2007, Chuck was named National Broadcaster of the Year by the National Weather Association. Though he wears a lot of hats at Channel 13, Chuck feels the most important part of his job is "keeping people safe in severe weather."

Chuck has covered everything from tornadoes and snow storms to the International Space Station at Kennedy Space Center, the Indianapolis 500, Brickyard 400, Colts rallies and Pacers playoff celebrations. Before coming to WTHR, Chuck was a weathercaster and general assignment reporter for WFIE-TV in Evansville, Indiana.

A frequent speaker to churches, schools and civic organizations, Chuck has been named Prodigy of Indianapolis for community service. He has been a "Master of Ceremonies" for organizations including the American Heart Association and Promise Keepers. He has hosted the "Good News Open" for more than a dozen years, an event that has raised thousands of dollars for the downtown Good News Mission.

Chuck has served on advisory boards for the Broadcast Meteorology Department at Mississippi State University and for Moody Broadcasting in Indianapolis. He was also the former national recertification chairman for the National Weather Association.

Chuck graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and grew up in Winthrop Harbor, Illinois. He and his wife Mary Lou have three sons, Timothy, Paul and Phillip

### **Angela Lese**

Angela Lese graduated from Purdue University in December 2003 with a Master's in Atmospheric Science. After being a SCEP through the NWS Northern Indiana office during her late college years, she started as a Meteorologist Intern at the Springfield, MO NWS office. She worked there from January 2004-April 2005, and then was promoted to General Forecaster at the Louisville, KY NWS office in May 2005. She has worked there since, and is now a Senior Forecaster (since February 2008). Her work interests include research and training with severe weather.

### **Jason Puma**

Jason is a 1994 graduate of the State University of New York at Oswego, holding a BS Degree in Meteorology. He has worked as an operational meteorologist for the National Weather Service for over 15 years, including stops in Lexington KY and Milwaukee WI. Jason has spent the last 11 years at the National Weather Service's Indianapolis Office, including the past 5 years as a Senior Meteorologist. Some highlights from the past eleven years include training the Indianapolis staff and implementing the Interactive Forecast Preparation System in 2001, being a part of the warning decision team during the September 20, 2002 tornado that crossed Indiana, and participation in the BAMEX project during the spring of 2003.

### **Chris Novy**

Chris Novy was born in Chicago, IL, and is a life-long weather enthusiast. He received a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement (Public Safety) from Southern Illinois University in 1983, and a Masters degree in 1987. He has been involved with emergency management since 1980, and has served as a trainer since 1985, as well as being a licensed ham radio operator since the early 1980s (Amateur Extra, WA9V).

Novy moved to Oklahoma in 2005 and is currently the Assistant Chief Engineer for Fox25/CW34 in Oklahoma City. He is also a communicator for Canadian County and Oklahoma County Emergency Management. Founder of the WX-TALK and WX-CHASE e-mail discussion groups, Novy is a longtime chaser who now prefers spotting.

### **Ellen Bryan**

Ellen Bryan, a student at Ball State University, is a national spokesperson for lightning awareness. While growing up in Ohio, she became an advocate for lightning safety after a personal encounter with lightning in 2000. Since then, Ellen has talked with over 2,000 students, 100 business and many service organizations, such as Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, about what to do in a thunderstorm. Last year, Ellen and NOAA's National Weather Service partnered for the 2009 Lightning Safety Week Campaign. In June, NOAA released a Public Service Announcement featuring Ellen, and USA Today printed an article about her work for lightning safety. She has traveled from Chicago to Washington D.C. promoting the phrase, "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors." This year, Ellen maintains her partnership with NOAA and will take an active role in their 2010 Lightning Safety Week Campaign. She is also working with the Lightning Protection Institute and was a featured speaker at their national convention in Nashville.

### **Mike Ryan**

Mike Ryan is a Senior Forecaster for the National Weather Service in Indianapolis. He came to Indiana in August 2009 after spending 10 years as an Intern and General Forecaster at the Wilmington, Ohio National Weather Service office. Throughout his NWS career, he has been involved with public outreach through the storm spotter program and climate programs, along with coordination with local broadcast media and amateur radio networks. Mike published a comprehensive fifty-year severe weather climatology local to the Wilmington area in 2008. He has had the opportunity to work during significant winter storms that impacted Ohio in February 2003, December 2004, and March 2008, and was a member of the warning decision team during June 3-4 2008 when several rounds of severe weather impacted southwest and central Ohio and northern Kentucky over a 36-hour period.

Mike is a native of Columbus, Ohio and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Atmospheric Sciences from the Ohio State University in 1998 and 2000 respectively.

